

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Audrey Beck Municipal Building

Council Chambers

4:00 pm

Minutes

Present: M. Hart, E. Paterson, J. Hintz, P. Barry, J. Saddlemire, M. Beal, R. Schurin,
C. Paulhus, N. Silander, J. Knecht

Staff: J. Jackman, G. Padick, C. VanZelm, G. Weidemann

1) Meeting called to order at 4:03

2) April 14, 2009 Meeting Minutes

J. Saddlemire moved and J. Hintz seconded to approve the minutes of August 10, 2010 meeting. Passed unanimously.

3) Updates:

a) Spring Weekend 2010. The 2010 UConn Spring Weekend Report that the Committee is charged with preparing has not yet been completed. J. Saddlemire was tasked with being the point person for UConn and J. Jackman was tasked with being the point person for the Town.

i) Committee members discussed the recent changes with X-Lot ownership and use and the potential impacts this may have on Spring Weekend.

b) Mansfield Community Campus Partnership. J. Hintz and N. Silander provided an overview of the MCCP fall community outreach programs.

c) Mansfield Downtown Partnership/Festival on the Green. C. VanZelm and B. Paterson provided an overview of the Festival on the Green.

d) Staff visit to Amherst, MA. M. Hart reported that public safety and code enforcement staff met with their counterparts in Amherst MA to review common issues and to discuss successful practices.

4) UConn Agronomy Farm.

a) Members of the public were given an opportunity to address the committee

i) N. Facchinetti distributed a position summary of the Hill Improvement Association, Storrs Heights Neighborhood and briefed the committee on the neighborhoods concerns in regard to the development of irrigation wells at the Agronomy Farm.

ii) J. Rickards expressed concern with the lack of a liaison and need for a hydrologist who had no connection with the University.

iii) L. Menkel expressed concern that the impacts may extend beyond the Storrs Heights neighborhood.

- iv) G. Weidemann briefed the committee on the history of the irrigation project, steps taken to establish a hydrologic base line and reported that there were no negative impacts from the irrigation project of the summer.
 - v) R. Schurin will address his concerns with UConn staff and report to the committee.
- 5) Fall 2010 Off-campus Activity.
 - a) M. Hart provided an overview of the fall 2010 off campus activities (see report of F. Conroy). There have been several large parties at Carriage House Apts and a few parties in neighborhoods that have been problematic. These significant parties/events have been a challenge for the community as they have drawn large numbers of students and guests, which has necessitated a public safety response. This has resulted in public safety resources being committed at the parties/events and resulted in coverage issues in the balance of the Town.
 - b) Members discussed the behaviors of the property owners, actions they have taken or not taken to mitigate the parties/events, and the inappropriate behaviors of the students and guests at these parties/events.
- 6) Other Business/Announcements. None.
- 7) Communications.
 - a) UConn Emergency Alert System. Committee members would like to see this as an October agenda item for discussion.
 - b) G. Weidemann re: Agronomy Farm. Committee members would like to see this as a November agenda item for discussion.
 - c) F. Conroy re: UConn – Back to School. Committee members would like to see this as an October agenda item for discussion.
- 8) Opportunity for Public to Address the Committee.
 - a) M. Sikoski expressed concern with pedestrian traffic on Storrs Road (Moulton Road to Four Corners).
- 9) Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5:48 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Jackman, Emergency Management Director, Town of Mansfield